

Dearborn High School History

The original Dearborn High School, located at Garrison and Monroe, first opened its doors to students in 1893, the same year the village of Dearborn incorporated. The red brick building had seven rooms, but only enough students in first grade through high school to fill three rooms. All of the high school classes met in one room on the second floor. In 1897, the high school graduated one student, Arthur Clark. By 1919, Dearborn High had an enrollment of 78 students and by 1922 the graduating class had grown to twenty students. Orange and black were officially chosen as the school colors in 1919 and Dearborn High students chose the name Pioneers in 1921. Henry Ford donated five acres of land in Ford Field for athletics in September, 1920. The first high school baseball contest played by Dearborn High on Ford Field was in 1920 against Eastern High School. Also in 1920, Dearborn inaugurated its first football season by defeating Belleville on Ford Field.

The second Dearborn High School building, located at Garrison and Mason, opened after winter vacation in 1926. The school had a cafeteria, candy store, manual training rooms, science labs, a library, and lockers. In the 1930s, Dearborn High's main sports rival was Wayne Memorial High School. The two had been arch rivals in football since 1916. During the 1940s, the Dearborn High sports teams were sometimes referred to as the Log Cabin boys.

By 1955, enrollment was 1,837 and plans had begun for two new high school buildings, the new Dearborn High and Edsel Ford High School. The former Dearborn High was renamed Adams Junior High School in honor of former superintendent, Ray H. Adams. In the fall of 1957, Dearborn High moved to its current location on Outer Drive. The school opened with 1,053 students in tenth through twelfth grades. Since first opening, the school has had two major additions. The last, completed in 2004, included a new hallway of classrooms and an addition to the cafeteria.

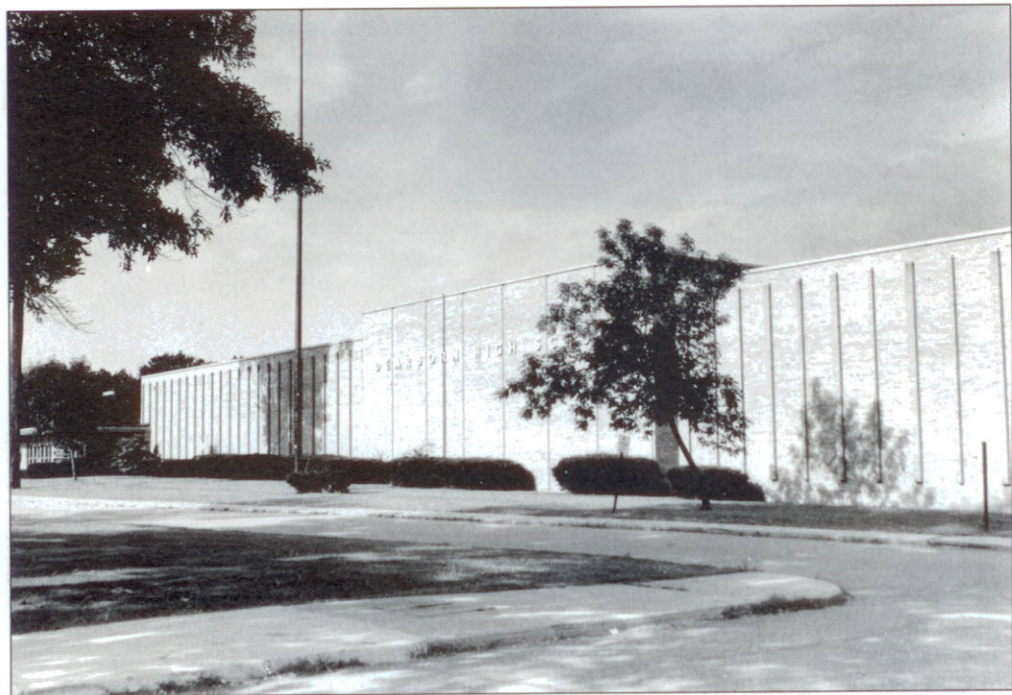


This picture features the class of 1895 at what was known as the Dearborn Public School. Bricks from the arsenal were incorporated into the structure when it was built in 1893 on part of the old arsenal grounds. This structure was also used for high school classes until 1925, when a larger building, known as Dearborn High School, was built on Mason Street. That school is the present day Ray H. Adams Junior High School. (Photograph courtesy Dearborn Historical Museum.)





Built in 1926, this building was originally Dearborn High School. With the opening of present day Dearborn High School in 1957, this building became Ray H. Adams Junior High School. Today, the building serves as an office complex. (Photograph courtesy Dearborn Historical Museum.)



Pictured here is Dearborn High School at its present location on Outer Drive just north of Michigan Avenue. After two previous locations, this structure was built at this location in 1957. (Photograph courtesy Dearborn Historical Museum.)